

Preparing for an Influenza Pandemic

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Fairfax County Planning

- Embedded in County All- Hazards Emergency Plans
- Multi-disciplinary workgroups in accordance with state, regional and federal planning efforts
 - Over 30 county agencies, cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, the towns of Herndon and Vienna, schools, hospitals, private sector groups and partner organizations.
 - Public Health and Critical Infrastructure
- Goal is to rapidly detect and contain outbreaks, maintain essential health care and community services as best as possible during a pandemic

County Efforts Underway

- Town Hall Meetings (April 2006)
- Engaging business community (May 2006)
- Working with First Responders
- Educating partners (July-August 2006)
- Continuing Health Care Surge planning
- Enhancing capacity to communicate information to the public
- Reviewing dispensing site plans to rapidly vaccinate large populations
- Identifying social distancing measures

Why plan now?

"Any community that fails to prepare, with the expectation that the federal government will come to the rescue will be tragically wrong."

Michael O. Leavitt, April 10, 2006
HHS Secretary

Why Plan Now?--- Infrastructure

- Significant disruption of transportation, commerce, utilities, public safety and communications
- Limited to no assistance from State and Federal governments due to nation-wide impact

FAIRFAX COUNTY: Critical Infrastructure Committee working with county agencies, utilities, businesses, etc.

Why Plan Now?--- Businesses

- High absenteeism
- Challenges getting to/from worksite
- Psychological impacts on workforce will be extreme
- Social distancing efforts may dramatically change hours of operation or close businesses temporarily
- Economic losses – small businesses at greatest risk

FAIRFAX COUNTY: Business Summit May 26th
(included a break out session on schools and childcare)

Public Health Preparedness

- Multi-disciplinary workgroups
 - Communication and notifications*
 - Vaccine and antiviral distribution
 - Community disease control and prevention
 - Essential needs*
 - Laboratory and Surveillance
 - Surge capacity
 - First Responders*
 - Legal
 - Mass Fatality Management

Communication and Notifications

Lead: Health

Members: OPA, FCPS, Medical Society, Falls Church, Herndon and Fairfax City reps, VDH, Health, Channel 16

Objective:

Ensure timely, accurate and consistent information dissemination to the public, media, health care workers and Health Department staff during an influenza pandemic.

Vaccine and Antiviral Distribution

Lead: Health

Members: Health

Objective:

Distribute and ensure adequate access to vaccine and antiviral medications, in collaboration with the regional partners and VDH.

Community Disease Control and Prevention

Lead: Health

Members: FCPS, Long Term Care, Adult Detention Center

Objective:

Establish community disease containment strategies to mitigate the transmission of influenza virus and its impact on Fairfax County and its neighboring jurisdictions.

Essential Needs

Lead: DFS

Members: Health, MRC, OEM, FCPS, CSB, Red Cross, Rep from Faith-based community, Reps from Cities of Falls Church and Fairfax

Objective:

Provide essential services to individuals or families who are isolated or quarantined, and do not have access to other resources.

Laboratory, Surveillance and Epidemiology

Lead: Health

Members: Hospital ICPs, VDH, Health (incl. Lab and EH), FC Wildlife Biologist

Objective:

To develop a plan to collect, analyze and disseminate disease activity and trend data during all phases of a pandemic.

Surge Capacity

Lead: Health

Members: Hospitals, OEM, VDH

Objective:

Effectively identify and utilize resources to handle increased patient care and other health care needs during a pandemic response effort.

Legal

Lead: Office of the County Attorney

Members: Health, Sheriff, Court, Police

Objectives:

Ensure that all isolation and quarantine strategies that are being considered meet the legal restrictions of the state and county

Ensure that law enforcement has the information necessary to interpret and enforce isolation and quarantine strategies and other recommended public health measures.

First Responders

Lead: Fire and Rescue

Members: Health; Public Safety from Fairfax, Herndon, Vienna, Falls Church and Fairfax City; OCME

Objective:

Maintain public safety and order, including securing vaccine or medications, through coordination and preparation of public safety services.

Mass Fatality

Lead: Health

Members: Hospitals, Law Enforcement, OEM, OCME, Cemetery Assoc, Funeral Directors Assoc, Health

Objective: Develop a plan to handle the increased numbers of deaths in and out of hospital with dignity and respect.

Critical Infrastructure Preparedness

- Critical government and county services that need to be maintained to support the infrastructure are being addressed
- Each county agency is developing pandemic influenza specific COOP plans
- The County is dealing with businesses and utilities to ensure they have specific plans

Critical Infrastructure cont'd

- The Childcare industry is critical to the infrastructure
- Parents cannot go to work if childcare not available.
 - May require revision of staffing plans, extension of staffing through retired employees etc, and possibly redefinition of essential services and employees
- Childcare centers may be asked to close if it is in the interest of the public health

Challenges for Your Specific Agency

- Ability to perform your critical role in this unique, high demand situation with limited human resources
 - Employees are most affected during a pandemic, not infrastructure
 - Possibly up to 40% absenteeism due to illness in employee, family member or fear

Pandemic COOP Planning

- Identification and prioritization of essential functions
- Identify functions that can be suspended while staff is reassigned to more critical roles.
- Reducing or mitigating disruptions to operations
- Identify the personnel needed to perform the agency's essential functions
- Line of succession to essential positions required in an emergency and delegations of authority

Start Now—Educate your staff, students and their families

To protect themselves, their family and community

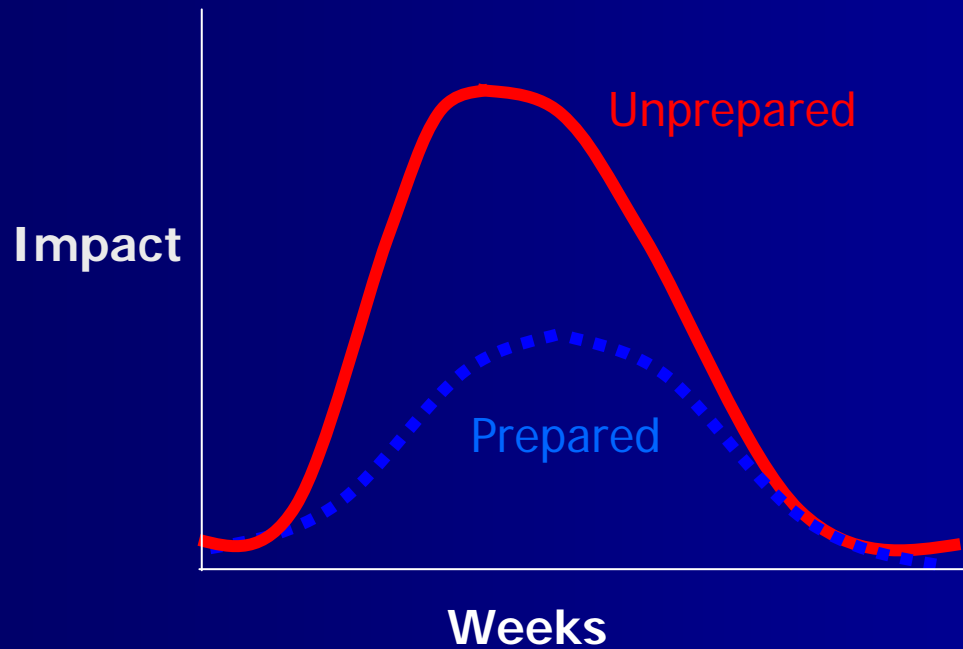
- Stay informed
- Stop germs from spreading
 - **Cover their cough and sneeze**
 - **Wash their hands often**
 - **Stay home when they are sick**
- Get their flu shot each year.
- Have a good home disaster preparedness plan and including identifying friends and neighbors in advance to assist when help is needed.

Childcare facilities and Pandemic Influenza

“In preparation for a pandemic, our schools are uniquely equipped to disseminate preventative health information to teachers, students, parents, and the local community.”

Margaret Spelling, March 2006
Education Secretary

Impact of Planning



Adapted from HHS